

**METHOD OF AND SYSTEM FOR CREATING QUERIES THAT  
OPERATE ON UNSTRUCTURED DATA STORED IN A DATABASE****ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method of and system for searching unstructured data stored in a database. In one embodiment the method comprises storing unstructured data in a column of a database table; allowing a user to identify elements in the unstructured data as indexed elements; creating an intermediate index into the unstructured data from the identified elements; and allowing a user to create queries on the unstructured data using the indexed elements. In some implementations of this embodiment the unstructured data comprises a well-formed XML document stored within a column of a database table. Also, in some implementations the unstructured data is part of an electronic record stored in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users of the database.

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